

# NUTSHELL NARRATIVE OF THE RECLAMATION OF

# COLORADO

COLORADO, or "colored land," as the name signifies, in the language of one of the early white Indian tribes that made it their home prior to the advent of the white prospector, is just now experiencing a phenomenal growth. This is not only due to the state's fine climate

resting theme which the Desert News will give briefly. For the information contained in the narrative this paper desires to particularly express its thanks to the officials of the Union Pacific, to Major Hooper of the Denver & Rio Grande Western, the Denver Chamber of Commerce, and to the compilers of various current publications

Others cling tenaciously to the theory that the cliff-dwellers and Aztecs are one and the same people. Many scientists claim that these great stone houses in the cliffs of southern Colorado and southeastern Utah were constructed at a period much more remote than is generally supposed. Following their colonization of New

These people found the country in the possession of numerous tribes of hostile Indians, who claimed the right of ownership of every foot of ground. From time immemorial the several tribes of Utes had claimed the mountains of Colorado as their home and exclusive property, while the Arapahoes, Comanches, Cheyennes and various

them passed unmolested to and fro across the plains, but in 1864 there was a general uprising of all the Indian tribes on the plains. Men, women and children were murdered upon the highways and in their homes; women were taken into captivity and used as common property, outraged and cruelly treated by their savage captors,

and in the last decisive battle under General Custer, and the Washita, Chief Black Kettle and 102 of his warriors were killed. Excepting occasional cattle stealing and marauding expeditions as late as 1875, the war of 1867 ended the career of the red man on the Colorado

among the Indians in San Luis valley in the '40s, and was at once a ranchman, hunter, trapper and scout, is still living in his old cabin near Fort Garland at the age of 88 years.

THE INDUSTRIAL ERA.  
The modern or industrial period of



BIRD-EYE VIEW OF DENVER 1901—FOUNDED IN 1858—NAMED IN HONOR OF GENERAL JAMES W. DENVER.

and natural resources, which are ramified and wonderful, but to the fact that it is without question the most intelligently advertised state in the country today, as well. There are those in Denver and other Colorado cities who will tell you that not much is being done in the way of united effort; that the evidences of expansion everywhere visible are due to private enterprise and not public spirit. But this is not a correct statement of the facts. The truth is it is the contention of the methodical croaker, the cry of the man who cranks not for the sake of croaking but as a means of pushing forward that class which is less easily moved to co-operate for the public good than is he himself. In no wise is this latter individual an irresponsible boomer. Colorado has had enough of him. On the contrary he thinks, he plans, he creates. His argus eyes are constantly on the alert for new openings, for places where capital can be profitably invested, where new industries can be established. This kind of a man is very numerous in the Centennial state. Result—Money is brought into the state for development purposes from New England to California; from the old world—from wherever it can be obtained. With it all the precious metals are dug from the earth, and with that intelligence, too, that has made Colorado the foremost mineral producing section in the world. With it great smelters are built, iron works, nail factories, sugar plants and other industries started for the benefit of the people.

## HISTORICAL.

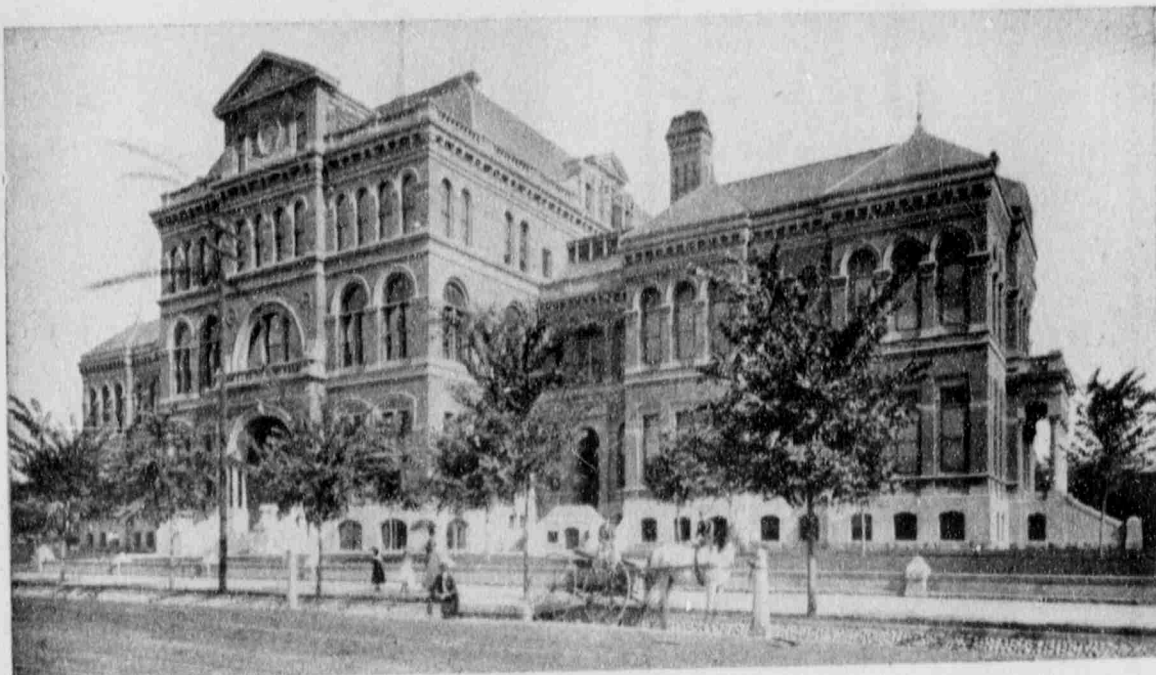
The settlement, growth and present status of Colorado comprise an inter-

whose pages have been drawn upon. The first settlers of Colorado, according to popular belief, were the cliff-dwellers, that mysterious and interesting people of an earlier age who built their homes upon the lofty ledges which corrugate the country round about the Dolores and Mancos rivers. Legendary lore holds to the view, that they belonged to the Toltecs and were driven or swept away before the furious horde of Aztecs that invaded the country and supplanted that people in Mexico.

Mexico, about the middle of the sixteenth century, the Spaniards made occasional exploring tours through the mountains of southern and western Colorado, the most notable of these being the pilgrimage of Fathers Escalante and Garcia on their way to establish a missionary route to the Pacific. These were the first white people of whom there is record who set foot on Colorado soil. Early in the nineteenth century a few Spanish settlements were made temporarily in southern Colorado.

tribes of the Sioux and Blackfoot family disputed with each other and fought a perpetual warfare for mastery of the plains. Here we find the first actual inhabitant of Colorado and one first people connected with its history. This connection is traced through bloody encounters in the early days of the hunter, trader and trapper, later in the immigration period of the pioneer, and lastly in the days of modern civilization. The pioneers of 1859 and the many thousands who followed

their atrocities culminating in the memorable battle and massacre of Sand Creek by the Third Colorado Cavalry under command of Col John M. Cluvington, November 24, 1864, when not less than 400 Indians, including women and children were slaughtered. The war continued until October, 1865, when the collapse of the Rebellion permitted the transfer of a large force of United States troops from the east to the plains, and in due time the Indians were subjugated. By treaties in Oc-



EAST DENVER HIGH SCHOOL—COST \$360,000.



GROUP OF COLORADO BUEFOS.

tober, 1865, and October, 1867, the Indians were deprived of their hunting grounds between the Platte and the Arkansas and exiled to the Indian territory. Stirred to bitter resentment for this loss, the Arapahoes and Cheyennes began a general onslaught on the borders of Colorado. The war spread into the interior. The terrible scenes of murder and cruelty were re-enacted. After many bloody encounters with the United States troops, the savage bands were driven back to their reservations,



RUINS OF THE CLIFF DWELLER

plains and adjacent territory.

It then remained for the Utes, the lordly claimants of all they surveyed from the loftiest peaks of the Rocky Mountains to enact the last bloody tragedy—the massacre of Major Thornburg and twenty-three of his men at Milk Creek and the murder of A. C. Meeker and eleven of his employees at the White River Agency in 1873. This resulted in their removal by the Government a year later from the state, and thus the hostile savage passed forever from his native heath to a new wilderness in the farther West. The Southern Utes, a peaceable and semi-civilized band, still remain on their reservation in the southwest corner of the state.

## TRADERS, HUNTERS, TRAPPERS.

That period of the century just passed which intervened between the heroic exploits of Lieut. Zebulon Pike in 1806 and the appearance of the advance guard of the pioneer army of '59 is fraught with events and scenes of thrilling interest, though having only a remote connection with the wonderful revelations of the present day. It was the day and time of the trader, the hunter and trapper. First came the agents and employees of the fur companies, who participated in and became a part of the savage life of the wilderness. In passing away they left no monument or landmark, or scarcely a record of their presence. Next came the hunters, trappers and traders. These men left an indelible record of their daring adventures and miraculous deeds. They laid, in fact, the foundation for the tragic romance of Western life as we read it in books of fiction or witness its thrilling reproduction upon the mimic stage. This record recalls the hazards, the hardships and the wild adventures of the old Santa Fe Trail, whereupon the merchant caravan was the forerunner of the railways in the commerce of the great West, and it again brings to view the old stockades and forts—those primitive places of refuge and defense for the traveler and the trader against overwhelming numbers of the savage men of the plains. Associated with the scenes and circumstances of these times are the honored names of Kit Carson, the Bents, the St. Vrain, Lupton, Fitzpatrick, Sublette, Wooten, Beckworth, Goodair, Wiggins, Baker, Bridger, old Bill Williams and many others forming the community of hunters, traders and trappers. These men were characters in the country then known only as a part of the Louisiana Purchase. Most of them were soldiers in the Mexican war. A few of them lived to become citizens of the Territory and State of Colorado, and one of them, Oliver P. Wiggins, the only known survivor of the free trappers—is still a resident of Denver, and, at the ripe age of 84 years, is in public service and active in the performance of his duties. He was an employe and comrade of Kit Carson. Tom Tobins, who settled on a ranch



THE DENVER CLUB, WHERE LEADING MEN OF COLORADO MINGLE BUSINESS AND SOCIAL PLEASURES.

First Congregational Church on left.